Federation (NAFED) has been designated as the central nodal agency for undertaking price support operations and they have already Started procurement operations.

Rice development in the country

560. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plan for Rice Development in the country;

(b) the names of Districts alongwith number of blocks in such districts of Orissa where Special Rice Production Programme, Special Foodgrain Production Programme and Integrated Programme for Rice Development have been implemented or proposed to be implemented and achievements made so far; and

(c) the names of Basmati Rice growing Districts of Orissa and extend of Central assistance rendered so far in this connection and propose for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Rice Development (IPRD-I) is being implemented in 23 States and in the UT of Pondicherry for increasing the production and productivity of rice. The funding pattern under the scheme is 75:25 sharing basis between Government of India and concerned States. Through this scheme incentives are being provided to the farmers for the use of inputs like certified seeds, micronutrients, herbicides, pesticides, plant protection equipment, improved farm implements, etc. with the objects to motivate them for the adoption of improved production technology. Besides field demonstrations on farmers' heldings and training programmes for farmers and farm labourers are also being organised through the scheme.

(b) Special Rice Poduction (SRPP) was sanctioned for implementation in 69 blocks spreadover all the 13 districts of Orissa State and Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP) in 116 blocks in the districts of Balasore, Cuttack, Puri, Sambalpur and Ganjam. IPRD is to be implemented in all the districts of the state covering all the developmental blocks with respect to free flowing components like distribution of seeds, pesticides, farm implements, etc. The implementation of Rice Development Programme in the State has helped in increasing the production of rice which has increased from 51.2 lakh tonnes in 1983-84 to 66.6 lakh tonnes in 1991-92.

(c) None of the districts of Orissa State is a traditional export quality Basmati rice growing district and under IPRD, provision is to provide assistance for increasing production of Basmati rice for export promotion.

Production of Foodgrains

551. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bumper crop of wheat, rice etc. is expected in the current year;

(b) what is the estimated production of foodgrains in the country during the current year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that prices of wheat and rice have come down in the open market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) A record production of wheat, coarse cereals and pulses is expected during